

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

October 15, 2013

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is a 50-year habitat conservation plan with the twin goals of restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) ecosystem and securing California water supplies. The Delta is at the heart of California's water system and is the largest estuary on the West Coast; however, this critical resource has become significantly damaged. With mounting environmental concerns regarding the Delta ecosystem, local communities in the Bay Area, Central Valley, and Southern California, which rely on water deliveries that travel through the Delta, are at risk because this fragile, broken system is putting water supplies in jeopardy.

Implementing the BDCP is critical for ensuring reliable water supplies for two thirds of Californians. The water passing through the Delta provides 25 million people (including the 10 million residents within the County of Los Angeles) and 3 million acres of farmland with potable water supplies, and supports a Southern California economy of more than \$1 trillion.

The U.S. Geological Survey has warned that there is a 63 percent probability that a 6.7 magnitude or larger earthquake will occur within the Bay Area in the next 30 years, which would likely trigger levee breaks throughout the Delta, allowing saltwater from the San Francisco Bay to rush in and contaminate the freshwater moving through the Delta, crippling one of the State's primary water supplies for up to 1-1/2 years. In addition, many of the over 750 species of plants and animals that live in the Delta have experienced significant declines, and some have even become endangered, and would

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suffer further impacts in such an incident.

The BDCP was prepared by a team of Federal and State water experts, scientists, and public agencies to provide a science-based plan to achieve the coequal goals of restoring the Delta ecosystem and securing California's future water supplies. A new Statewide economic analysis reports that implementation of the BDCP will save 1,000,000 jobs and provide a net boost of \$4.8 billion to \$5.4 billion to California's economy and a net increase of Statewide economic activity of \$84 billion over 50 years, even after factoring in the effects of the cost of the BDCP.

Until a reliable conveyance system is built to separate a portion of water from the fragile Delta levees, our County--along with many others--will be at risk of losing a key source of water and a critical natural resource that benefits all Californians. California's economic and social future is directly tied to a safe supply of reliable, high-quality water and the State cannot afford to address this issue with half measures.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Executive Officer of the Board be directed to send a five-signature letter from the Board of Supervisors in support of the BDCP and its implementation to the State Legislature and that copies of the letter be sent to the Metropolitan Water District, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Castaic Lake Water Agency, and the Association of California Water Agencies.

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